Measures for improvement of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway

5750. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken some important measures for the improvement of Darjeeling Himalayan Railway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 18 new coaches recently procured have been pressed into service. These coaches are provided with superior passenger amenity fittings.

(c) Does not arise.

Conversion of Solapur—Hotgi—Bijapur railway line

5751. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU :

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether conversion of Solapur—Hotgi—Bijapur line into broad gauge has been or is being taken up, in view of its educational, historic and cultural importance;

(b) if so, the provision was made for it during 1993-94 and what provision have been made for 1994-95; and

(c) the steps taken or are being taken to implement the project ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b)	93-94	NIL
	94-95	Rs. 1 cr.

(c) The conversion work will be taken up on receipt of Planning Commission's approval.

Modernisation of coach factories in the country

5752. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to large scale conversion of old Narrow and Metre Gauge Lines to Broad Gauge Lines requirement of coaches in the country is likely to be increased;

(b) the present production capacity of each coach factory in the country;

(c) whether Government propose to modernise these coach factories with a view to increase their annual production capacity;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the financial assistance being provided by Government to the coach factories for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Present installed manufacturing capacity of each coach factory in the country under Railway sector and Public Sector, respectively is as under:

Railway Sector:

1. Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala	1000	
2. Integral Coach Factory, Madras	1000	(incl. EMUs)

Public Sector:

3. Bharat Earth Movers Ltd.	400	
4. Jessops	180	MG Coaches and 72 EMUs